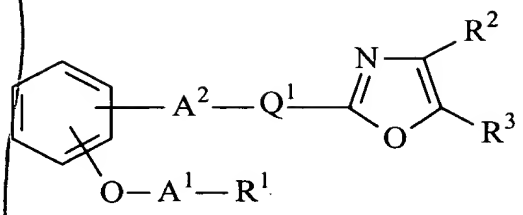


(I)

[wherein $R^1$ is carboxy or protected carboxy,

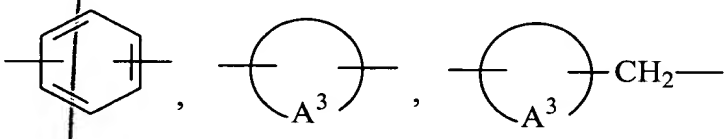
$R^2$ is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

$R^3$ is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

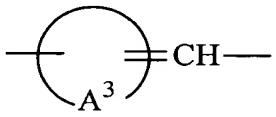
$A^1$ is lower alkylene,

$A^2$ is a single bond or lower alkylene and

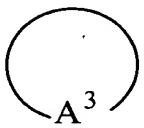
$-Q^1-$ is



or

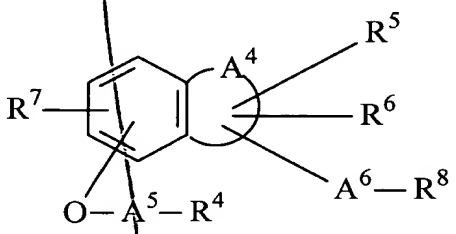


(in which



represents cyclo(lower)alkane or cyclo(lower)alkene, which respectively may optionally have one or more suitable substituents)].

4. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin $I_2$ agonist is a compound of the following general formula (II) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(II)

[wherein $R^4$ is carboxy or protected carboxy,

$R^5$ is hydrogen, hydroxy or protected hydroxy,

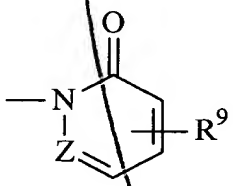
$R^6$ is hydrogen, hydroxy, protected hydroxy, lower alkyl or halogen,

$R^7$ is hydrogen or halogen,

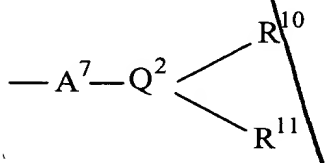
$A^5$ is lower alkylene,

$A^6$ is a single bond or lower alkylene and

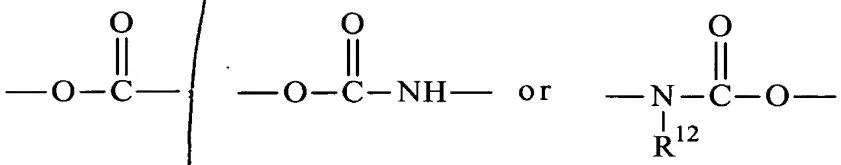
$-R^8$ is



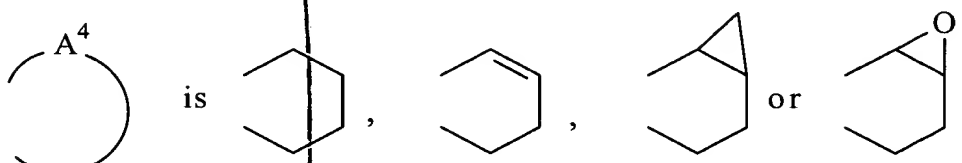
(in which $R^9$ is mono(or di or tri)aryl(lower)alkyl and Z is N or CH) or



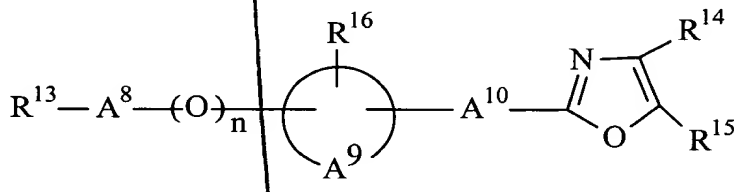
(in which $-A^7-$ is



(in which $R^{12}$ is hydrogen or lower alkyl), $Q^2$ is N or CH, $R^{10}$ is aryl and $R^{11}$ is aryl), and



5. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin $I_2$ agonist is a compound of the following general formula (III) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



(III)

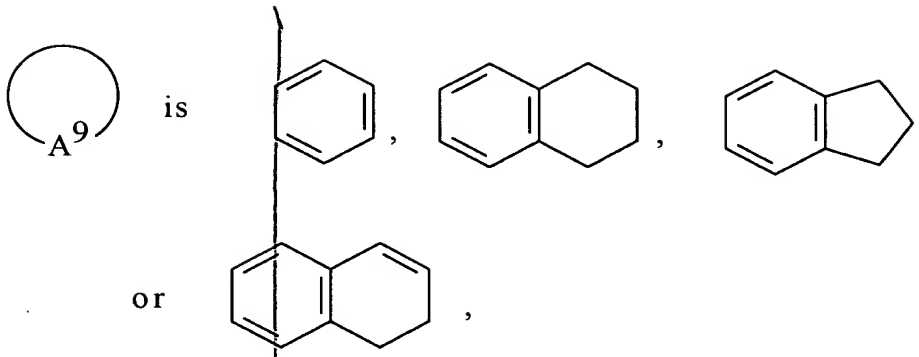
[wherein $R^{13}$ is carboxy or protected carboxy,

$R^{14}$ is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

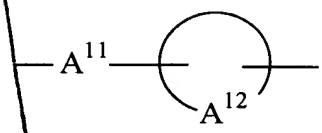
$R^{15}$ is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

$R^{16}$ is hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy or aryl,

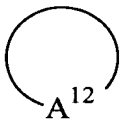
$A^8$ is lower alkylene,



-$A^{10}$- is



(in which -$A^{11}$- is a single bond, -$CH_2$- or -CO-,



represents cyclo(C5-C8)alkene, cyclo(C7-C8)alkane, bicycloheptane, bicycloheptene, tetrahydrofuran, tetrahydrothiophene, azetidine, pyrrolidine or piperidine, which respectively may optionally have one or more suitable substituents) or -X-$A^{13}$- (in which –X– is –O–, –S–, or –N($R^{17}$)- ($R^{17}$ being hydrogen, lower alkyl or acyl) and $A^{13}$ is lower alkylene which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents) and n is 0 or 1].

6. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim l, wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin $I_2$ agonist is

(1) [3-[[(1S)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)-2-cyclohexen-l-yl]methyl]phenoxy]acetic acid,

(2) [3-[[(1S)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)-2-cyclopenten-l-yl]methyl]phenoxy]acetic acid,

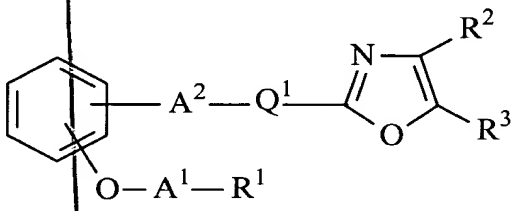
(3) [(2R)-5-(carboxymethoxy)-2-hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphth-2-yl]methyl]N,N-diphenylcarbamate,

(4) (1R)-1-[(2R)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)pyrrolidin-l-yl]-5-carboxymethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene or

(5) [3-[[(2R)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)pyrrolidin-l-yl]methyl]phenoxy]acetic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Please add the following new Claims 9-12:

9. (New) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin $I_2$ agonist is a compound of the following general formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

[wherein $R^1$ is carboxy or protected carboxy,

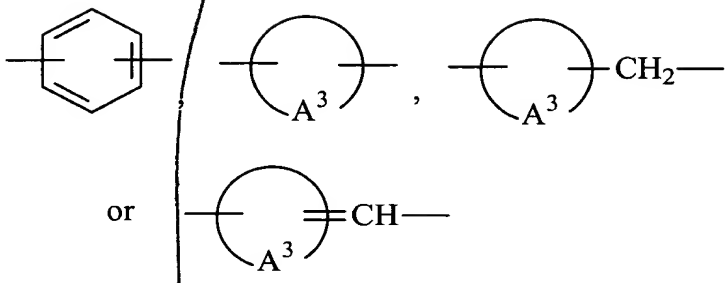
$R^2$ is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

$R^3$ is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

$A^1$ is lower alkylene,

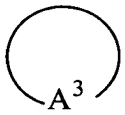
$A^2$ is a single bond or lower alkylene and

$-Q^1-$ is



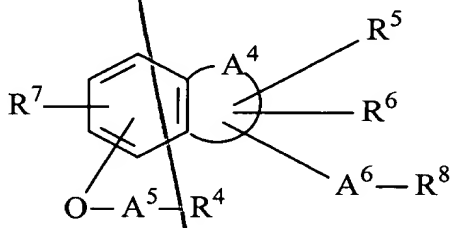
or 

(in which



represents cyclo(lower)alkane or cyclo(lower)alkene, which respectively may optionally have one or more suitable substituents)].

10. (New) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin $I_2$ agonist is a compound of the following general formula (II) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(II)

[wherein $R^4$ is carboxy or protected carboxy,

$R^5$ is hydrogen, hydroxy or protected hydroxy,

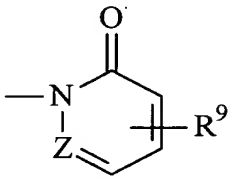
$R^6$ is hydrogen, hydroxy, protected hydroxy, lower alkyl or halogen,

$R^7$ is hydrogen or halogen,

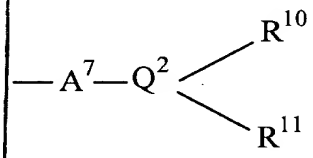
$A^5$ is lower alkylene,

$A^6$ is a single bond or lower alkylene and

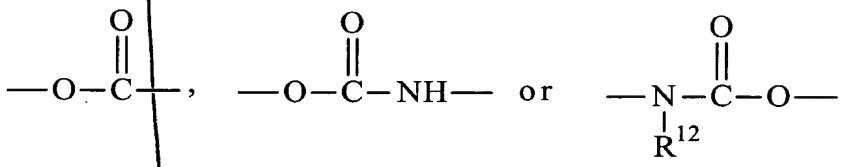
$-R^8$ is



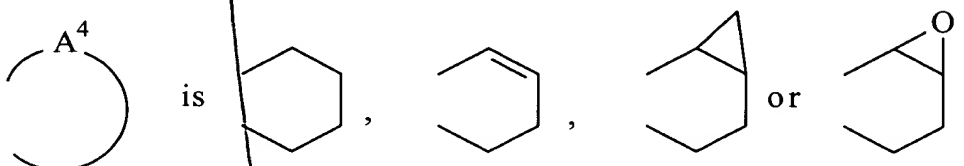
(in which $R^9$ is mono(or di or tri)aryl(lower)alkyl and Z is N or CH) or



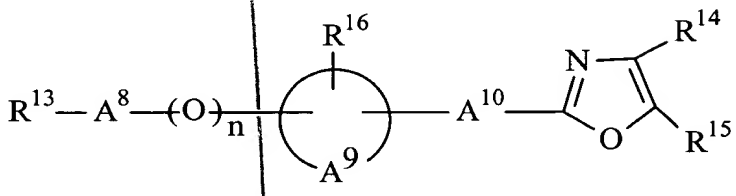
(in which $-A^7-$ is



(in which $R^{12}$ is hydrogen or lower alkyl), $Q^2$ is N or CH, $R^{10}$ is aryl and $R^{11}$ is aryl), and



11. (New) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin $I_2$ agonist is a compound of the following general formula (III) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



(III)

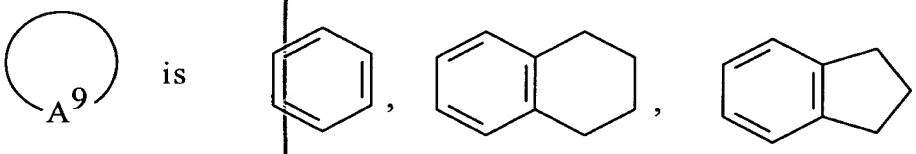
[wherein $R^{13}$ is carboxy or protected carboxy,

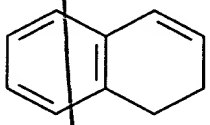
$R^{14}$ is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

$R^{15}$ is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

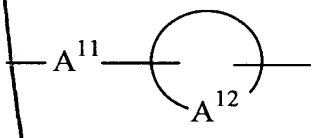
$R^{16}$ is hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy or aryl,

$A^8$ is lower alkylene,

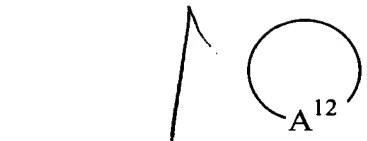



$-A^{10}-$ is




(in which $-A^{11}-$ is a single bond, $-CH_2-$ or -CO-,



represents cyclo(C5-C8)alkene, cyclo(C7-C8)alkane, bicycloheptane, bicycloheptene, tetrahydrofuran, tetrahydrothiophene, azetidine, pyrrolidine or piperidine, which respectively may optionally have one or more suitable substituents) or -X-$A^{13}$- (in which –X– is –O–, –S–, or –N($R^{17}$)- ($R^{17}$ being hydrogen, lower alkyl or acyl) and $A^{13}$ is lower alkylene which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents) and n is 0 or 1].

12. (New) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin $I_2$ agonist is

(1) [3-[[(1S)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)-2-cyclohexen-l-yl]methyl]phenoxy]acetic acid,

(2) [3-[[(1S)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)-2-cyclopenten-l-yl]methyl]phenoxy]acetic acid,

(3) [(2R)-5-(carboxymethoxy)-2-hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphth-2-yl]methyl]N,N-diphenylcarbamate,

(4) (1R)-1-[(2R)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)pyrrolidin-l-yl]-5-carboxymethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene or

(5) [3-[[(2R)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)pyrrolidin-l-yl]methyl]phenoxy]acetic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.